

# Wisconsin Food Stamp Program At a Glance

All data is for (or as of) the month of November, 2002<sup>1</sup>

## Who gets food stamps in Wisconsin?

- **Poverty:** 5.3% of the 5.4 million people in Wisconsin receive FS.<sup>2</sup> On average from 1998 - 2000, 8.8% of the state population was at or below the federal poverty rate.<sup>3</sup>

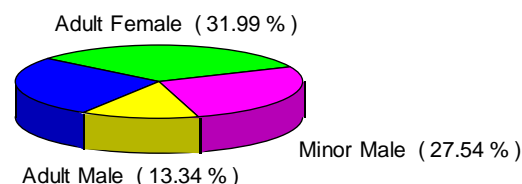
- **Assistance Groups (AGs)/Individuals:**

115,195 Assistance groups are made up of 285,328 individuals. The AG size continues to increase at a steady rate. There are an average of 2.5 people in an AG.

- **Gender:** 59% are female and 41% are male.

Minor Female ( 27.13 % )

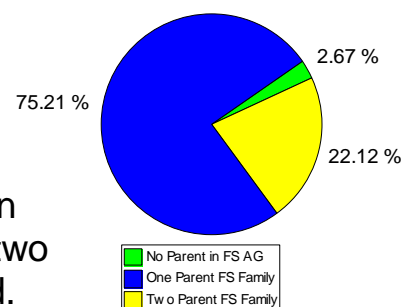
Adult Status and Gender Chart



- **Adults/Minors:** 46% are adults while 54% are minors. 60% of AGs have minors in them.

- **Minors and Their Parents:** Of the AG's that contain minors, 75% have one parent in the AG, 22% have two parents, and 2.7% have no parents in the household.

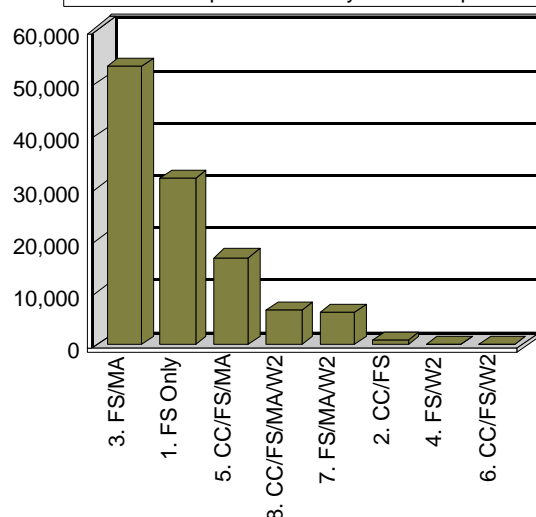
"Parent" is defined as a biological parent.



- **Parents That Are Minors:** 984 minors in 957 FS AGs are parents. That's 1/3 of 1 percent of the individuals that receive FS.

- **Case Composition:** The graph on the right shows other types of CARES issued assistance that a FS AG receives.

Number of Open FS AGs by Case Composition

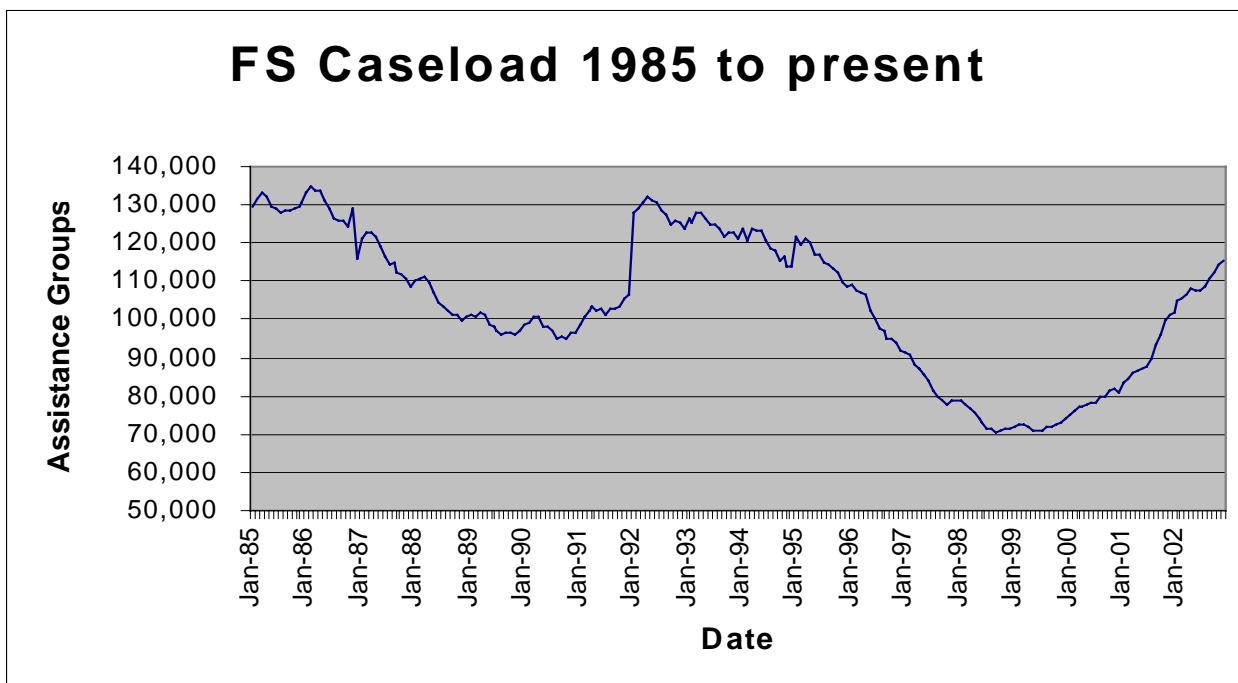


<sup>1</sup> Source: DWD/DWS FS Data Warehouse

<sup>2</sup> Source: U.S. Census Bureau, <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/55000.html>

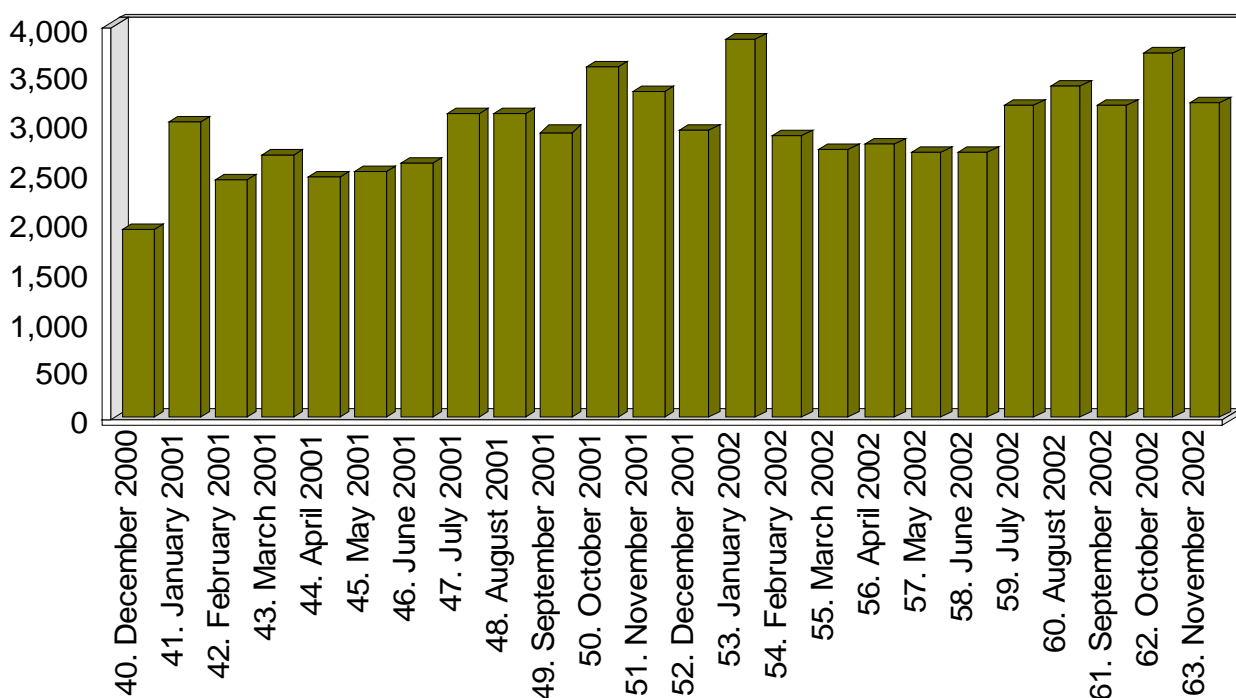
<sup>3</sup> Source: U. S. Census Bureau <http://www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/p60-214.pdf>

- **Historical Caseload Trend:** The statewide caseload had been increasing at a steady rate since September of 1999.

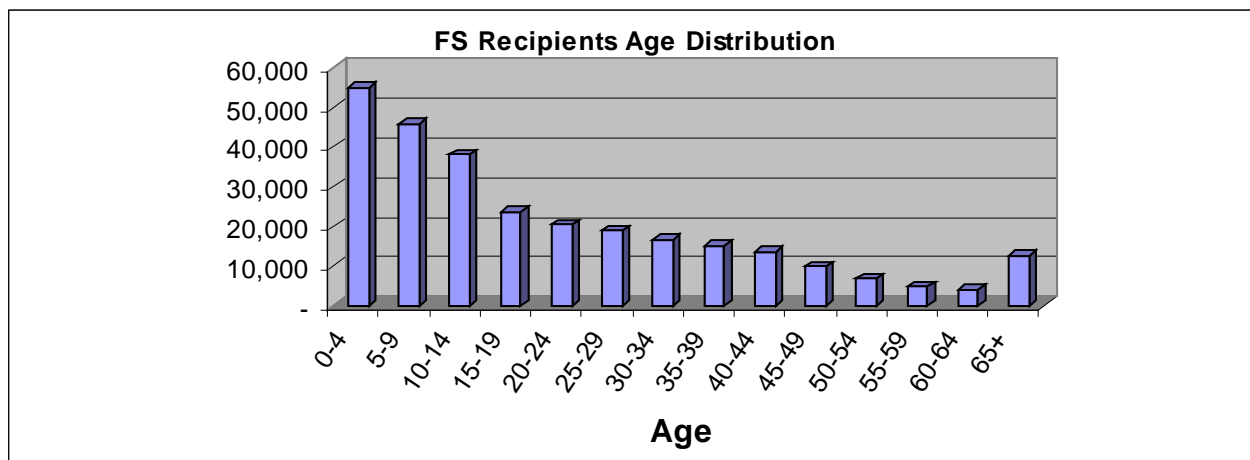


- **First Time FS Recipients:** This chart shows the number of first-time FS assistance groups over the last 2 years. Only AGs that have never received FS in Wisconsin before the month shown appear in this chart.

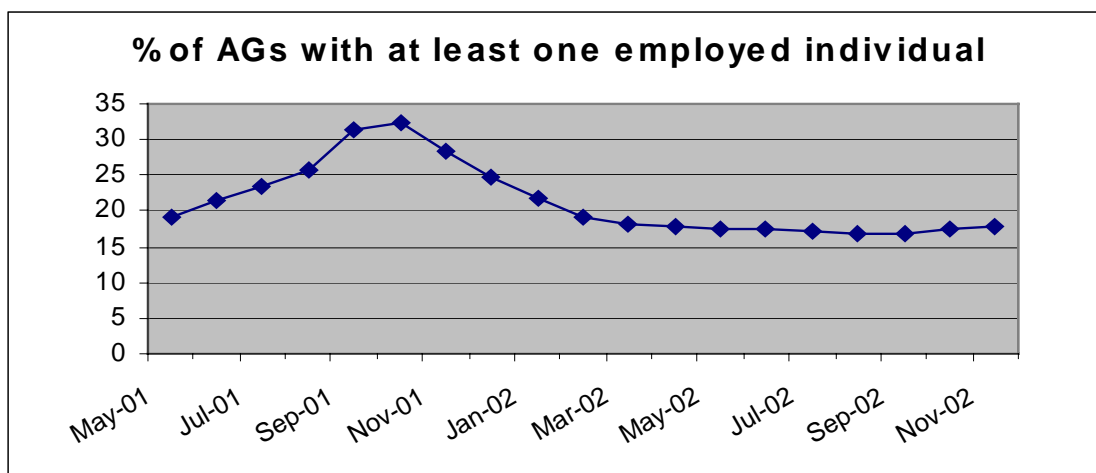
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- **Age Distribution:** The chart below shows the number of FS recipients by age, in ranges of 5 years. The largest age group is comprised of children under age 4.

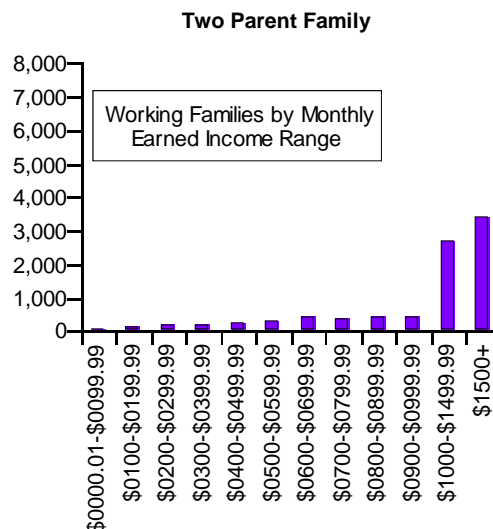
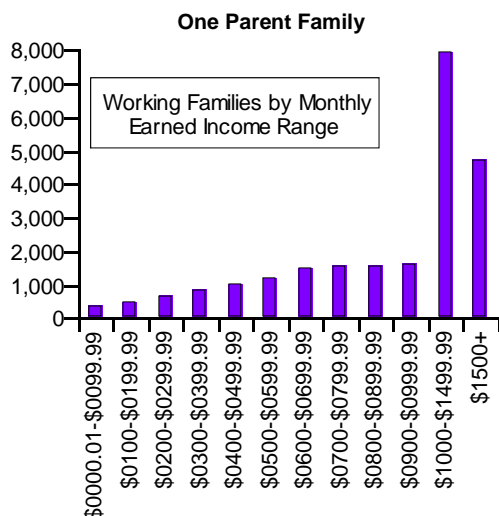


- **Elderly/Disabled:** 17% of FS recipients are either elderly, blind, or disabled. 41% of AGs contain at least one individual that is either elderly, blind, or disabled.
- **Work/Earnings:** 17.8% of the AGs have at least one person working. This is a slight increase from last month. The average monthly earned income of those AGs' is \$988, a 1% decrease from last month.<sup>4</sup> 33.9% of adult FS recipients are employed, effectively the same as last month. Currently, the unemployment rate in Wisconsin is 5.1%, up 2/10 of a percent from last month.<sup>5</sup>



<sup>4</sup> This statistic contains prospective income for cases that may have caused the case to close at the end of the report month. Therefore, the income reported here was not necessarily the income used to calculate eligibility or the allotment amount.

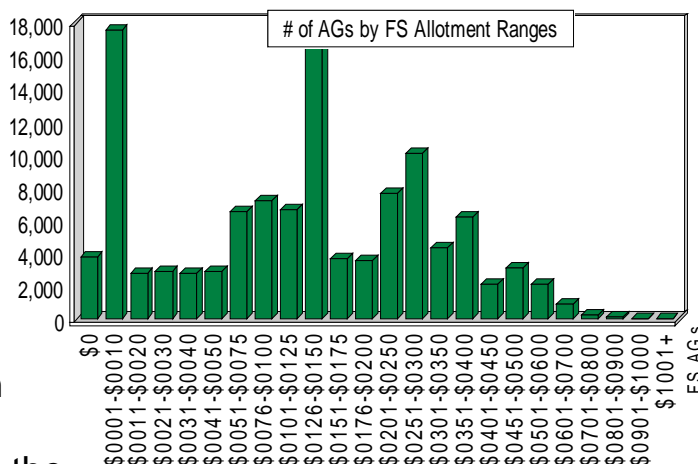
<sup>5</sup> Source: DWD Labor Market Information at [http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi/employ\\_civilianlaborForce.htm](http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi/employ_civilianlaborForce.htm)

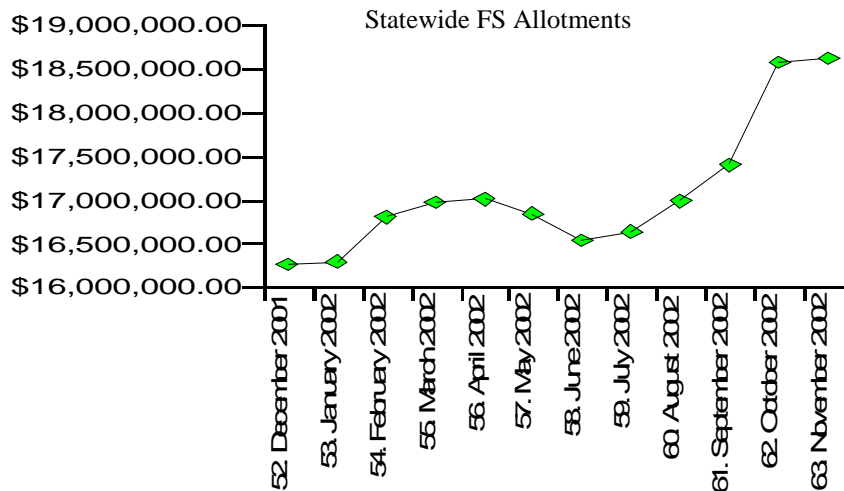


**Working Families:** A "working family" is defined as a FS AG that contains at least one minor, at least one parent of a minor, and at least one employed recipient. This is an attempt to explore those FS recipients that have children and are working. Working families make up 28.4% of the statewide FS AGs, average about 4 persons per AG, and average \$1,144 in earned income per month. Other stats are available below.

	Working Family AGs	Avg. Recipients per AG	Avg. Earned Income per AG/month	Avg. Unearned Income per AG/month	Avg. FS Allotment per AG/month
One-Parent	23,639	3.2	\$1,068	\$196	\$165
Two-Parent	9,118	4.8	\$1,341	\$209	\$249
Combined	32,757	3.7	\$1,144	\$199	\$188

- Allotments:** A total of \$18.6 million in food stamp benefits were allotted for the month. The average allotment amount per AG is \$162. The average allotment for AGs that contain an elderly, blind, or disabled member is \$98. However, 18.5% of the caseload only receives between \$0 and \$10 in allotments. Allotments have increased an average of 15% in the last 12 benefit months.





- Quality Control Error Rate Data:** For FFY 2001, Wisconsin's error rate was 13.14 %. The national average was 8.66%. The average error rate so far<sup>6</sup> for FFY 2002 (October 2001 - August 2002) is 12.4%. Previous years' data is found below:

Fiscal Year	Federal Target	Wisconsin Error Rate	Difference	Sanction Liability
1991	10.31%	10.05%	-.26%	None
1992	10.31%	9.32%	-.99%	None
1993	10.81%	9.51%	-1.30%	None
1994	10.32%	10.51%	+.19%	\$8,544.00
1995	9.7%	12.1%	+2.40%	\$1,370,000.00
1996	9.2%	11.61%	+2.41%	\$1,224,955.00
1997	9.89%	13.7%	+3.81%	\$2,200,000.00
1998	10.69%	14.58%	+3.89%	\$689,391.00
1999	9.88%	11.8%	+1.92%	\$606,466.00
2000	8.91%	12.0%	+3.09%	\$1,671,222.00
2001	8.66%	13.14%	+4.48%	\$2,800,000.00 (in appeal status)

<sup>6</sup> April 2002 data was not available as of the writing of this document. This QC error rate data is the same data published in the May 2002 FS Program At A Glance.